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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY.'S DOCKET: BILBE1

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|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| In re Application of: |) | Art Unit: |
| |) | |
| BILBE et al. |) | Examiner: |
| |) | |
| Appln. No.: 10/520,133 |) | Washington, D.C. |
| |) | |
| Date Filed: January 3, 2005 |) | Confirmation No. 7245 |
| |) | |
| For: GENES ASSOCIATED WITH... |) | November 7, 2005 |

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building, Mail Stop **Missing Parts**
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, and prior to calculation of the filing fee, kindly amend as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

Attachment: the Sequence Listing in computer readable form on floppy disk.